

practice as specified in 37 C.F.R. section 1.121. Appendix B to this Amendment includes a clean version of the full set of pending claims.

CLEAN VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

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1. (First Amended) A polarized light beam splitter assembly comprising:

a polarized light beam splitter prism including a first internal exposed surface and a second internal exposed surface; and

a wire grid polarizer including a first surface and a second surface including a perimeter region and a central region, said first surface of said wire grid polarizer secured to said first internal exposed surface of said prism, and said second surface of said wire grid polarizer secured to said second internal exposed surface of said prism in said perimeter region so as to define a gap between said second surface of said wire grid polarizer and said second internal exposed surface of said prism in said central region such that said wire grid polarizer does not contact said second internal exposed surface of said prism in said central region.

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9. (First Amended) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said second surface of said wire grid polarizer includes a wire grid thereon such that said wire grid is in communication with said gap and such that said wire grid does not contact said second internal exposed surface of said prism in said central region.

10. (First Amended) A polarized light beam splitter assembly comprising:

Q2 cont.
a polarized light beam splitter including an embedded wire grid polarizer having a wire grid including a raised surface, wherein said raised surface is in communication with an internal air gap;

a light source positioned to emit light to said polarized light beam splitter; and

a reflection device positioned to receive light redirected by said polarized light beam splitter.

Q3
13. (First Amended) The assembly of claim 10 wherein said polarized light beam splitter defines first and second sections, said embedded wire grid polarizer is secured to said first section, and said embedded wire grid polarizer is secured to said second section only in a perimeter region thereof by adhesive having spacers distributed therein, wherein said spacers define a width of said internal air gap.

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17. (First Amended) A polarized light beam splitter system comprising:
a polarized light beam splitter including first and second sections;

an embedded wire grid polarizer including first and second surfaces, said embedded wire grid polarizer secured to said first section of said polarized light beam splitter at said first surface, and said embedded wire grid polarizer secured to said second section of said polarized light beam splitter only in an edge region of said second surface; and

at least one spacer positioned between said second section of said polarized light beam splitter and said second surface of said embedded wire grid polarizer in said edge region.

Q5
21. (Newly Added) A polarized light beam splitter device comprising:

a polarized light beam splitter including first and second sections that define an air gap therebetween; and

an embedded wire grid polarizer secured to said first section and within said air gap such that said wire grid polarizer is not in contact with said second section.
